

Other NEPA Courses Offered by the NTC

NEPA Analysis Process for the BLM (#1620-02)

Description: The overall goal of this introductory online course is to teach you the basics of the BLM's analytical process for NEPA as described in Chapter 6 of the 2008 BLM NEPA Handbook. We cover purpose and need, scoping, issues, proposed action, related actions, alternatives, affected environment, and environmental consequences. At the end of this short course, you should be able to list and describe the steps in the NEPA process and conduct a basic level of NEPA analysis.

Length: 70 minutes of video presentations plus 7 exercises to reinforce the concepts.

Target Audience: BLM employees who participate in any aspect of the NEPA process. (Although this course was developed for the BLM, it could be valuable to anyone who wants to learn more about the NEPA process.)

Relationship to Other BLM NEPA Courses: This course is a pre-requisite for most of the BLM's other online and classroom NEPA courses. It is the second in the series of online NEPA courses. The first is NEPA Concepts (#1620-17), which provides an introduction to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA.

To Access the Course via the KRC: <http://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/viewresource.php?courseID=400> .

To Access the Course via DOI Learn: <https://doilearn.doi.gov/> Input NEPA Analysis Process into the search box.

Note: *If you get a blank screen when you get into the course, download Adobe Flash Player and it should work!*

NEPA: Analyzing Impacts (#1620-10)

Description: The overall goal of this intermediate course is to show you how to improve your impact analysis and NEPA documentation by making them more scientifically sound and legally defensible. To get the most out of this course, watch it and work the exercises with the other members of your interdisciplinary team, then discuss your answers together.

In Lesson 1, you will learn how to map out a cause/effect strategy, by selecting measurable resource indicators, identifying data gaps, agreeing on a methodology, and documenting assumptions before starting your impact analysis, thereby allowing you to identify any potential problems early in the process.

In Lesson 2, you will learn key principles to writing an impact analysis, as well as how to avoid fatal flaws in your analysis. You'll see several examples of good and bad analyses and be given an opportunity to practice writing an impact analysis using a 5-step process and compare it with your instructor's.

Lesson 3 isn't included on the post-test, but instead includes an ungraded self-assessment at the end. Here you will learn how to determine whether effects are significant or not by determining the severity or intensity and the context of the impact, as well as identifying potential significance thresholds.

Length: 60 minutes of video presentations plus 5 exercises and an ungraded self-assessment to reinforce the concepts.

Target Audience: BLM employees who analyze effects of proposed actions and alternatives on natural resources and land uses as required under the National Environmental Policy Act. (Although this course was developed for the BLM, it is available at no cost to anyone who wants to learn more about analyzing impacts.)

Relationship to Other BLM NEPA Courses: This course should be taken only if you have a good understanding of the NEPA process. Lesson 1, Cause and Effect Analysis, is also taught in the classroom course, *NEPA Analysis for Environmental Assessments* (1620-03), so can provide an introduction to the concept prior to taking the classroom EA course. If you are brand new to NEPA, we recommend you first take the online *NEPA Concepts* (#1620-17), which provides an introduction to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA. The online *NEPA Analysis Process for the BLM* (1620-02) should be taken before taking this *Analyzing Impacts* course if you need to improve your knowledge of the NEPA process.

To Access the Course via the KRC: <http://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/viewresource.php?courseID=310>.

To Access the Course via DOI Learn: <https://doilearn.doi.gov/> Input Analyzing Impacts into the search box.

Note: *If you get a blank screen when you get into the course, download Adobe Flash Player and it should work!*

Land Use Planning for Priority Species and Vegetation (#1610-16)

Description: This intermediate-level course consists of an online prerequisite class followed by an instructor-led classroom course with the same name. Taken together, these classes will show you how to systematically organize, incorporate, and analyze biological information for vegetation, special status species, other priority species, and their habitats for your RMP.

The online course was designed so the RMP team would watch the videos and complete the homework together. In the classroom course, you will review the homework, build on your draft list of priority species and vegetation, identify key ecological attributes (KEAs) for each priority species/community, select indicators for every KEA, describe ratings for each indicator, assess the current condition and trend for each KEA, assess potential impacts, and identify management opportunities and potential management strategies using health and impact information. On the last day, some participants will have hands-on practice of the workbook planning tool.

We recommend that the online course be taken 1-2 weeks before the onsite course, and that both courses are completed prior to development of the Analysis of the Management Situation.

Length: Online prerequisite is 2 hours of videos and 3 homework assignments. Onsite classroom course is 2 ½ days.

Target Audience: Planning team members who will be developing management direction for priority species and vegetation (e.g. wildlife & fisheries biologists, ecologists, botanists, range or plant specialists; hydrologists; planning team leads); key cooperators and partners who will actively participate on the planning team (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state fish and game agencies); and contractors who have been selected to help with the plan. Managers and supervisors are welcome to attend all or part of the class—especially the first day to become familiar with the concepts.

To Access the Course via the KRC: <http://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/viewresource.php?courseID=201>.

To Access the Course via DOI Learn: <https://doilearn.doi.gov/> Input Priority Species and Vegetation into the search box.

Note: *If you get a blank screen when you get into the course, download Adobe Flash Player and it should work!*

Planning/NEPA Forum: Connected Actions

Description: The topic of this program, originally broadcast in November 2008, was connected actions, as defined by the BLM NEPA Handbook (2008). BLM instructors Richard Hardt, Mel Meier, and Walt George reviewed guidance on connected actions from the CEQ Regulations and BLM NEPA Handbook, illustrated the concepts with examples and case law, and presented the Gateway West transmission line project, respectively. The remainder of the broadcast, hosted by Cathy Humphrey, consisted of questions from the audience and the answers from the panel.

Length: 90 minutes.

Target Audience: BLM NEPA practitioners, especially those in realty and energy/minerals.

To Access this on the KRC: http://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/uploads/311/Connected_Actions.html

NOTE: *This broadcast is not available on DOI Learn.*

These are just some of the NEPA-related courses and online resources available through the BLM's National Training Center. Please contact Cathy Humphrey at chumphre@blm.gov or 602-906-5536 if you have additional questions.